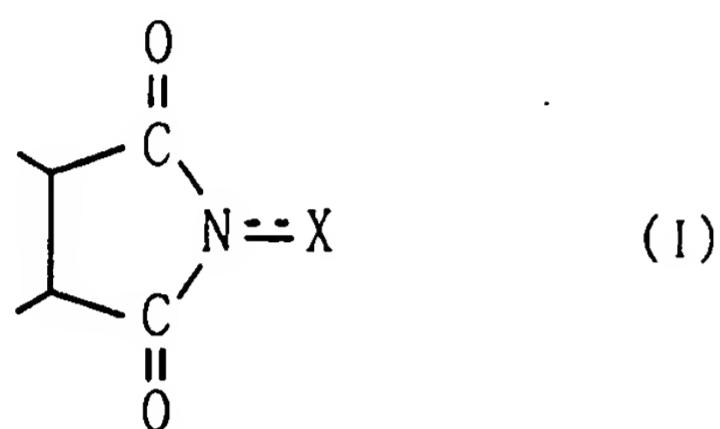


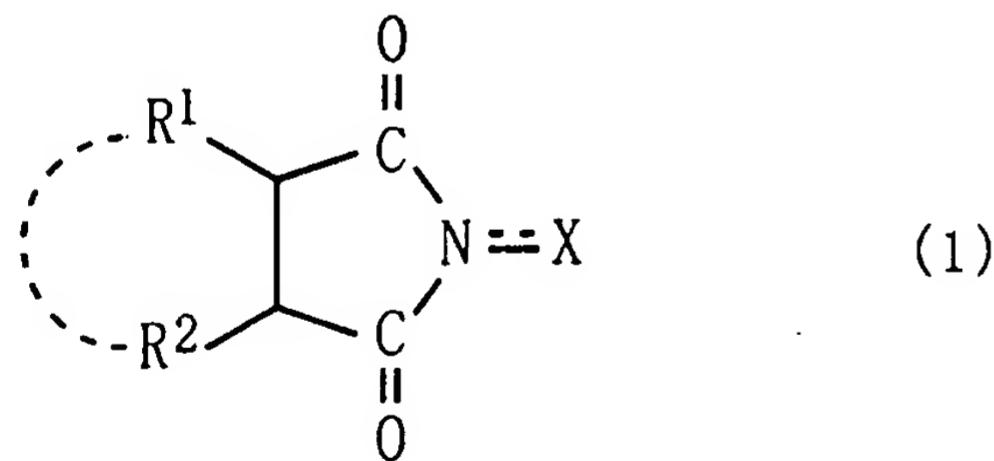
**AMENDED CLAIM SET:**

1. (currently amended) A catalyst comprising a cyclic imide compound, the cyclic imide compound having an N-substituted cyclic imide skeleton represented by following Formula (I):



wherein X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group, ~~and having wherein said catalyst has~~ a solubility parameter of less than or equal to 26 (MPa)<sup>1/2</sup> as determined by Fedors method.

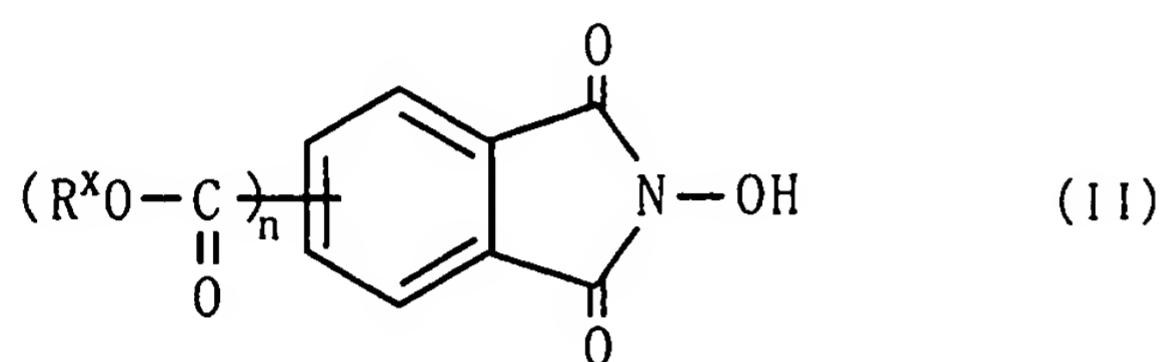
2. (original) The catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the cyclic imide compound is a compound represented by following Formula (1):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different and are each a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a cycloalkyl group, a hydroxyl group, an alkoxy group, a carboxyl group, a substituted oxycarbonyl group, an acyl group or an acyloxy group, where R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may be combined to form a double bond or an aromatic or non-aromatic ring; one or two of N-substituted

cyclic imido group indicated in Formula (1) may be further formed on R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, or on the double bond or aromatic or non-aromatic ring formed by R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup>; and X is an oxygen atom or a hydroxyl group.

3. (currently amended) The catalyst according to claim 2, wherein the A catalyst comprising a cyclic imide compound is a compound represented by following Formula (II):



wherein R<sup>x</sup> is a hydrocarbon group having five or more carbon atoms; and n denotes an integer of from 1 to 4, where the groups -C(=O)-OR<sup>x</sup> may be the same or different when n is equal to or more than 2.

4. (original) The catalyst according to any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising a metallic compound.

5. – 9. (cancelled).